

# SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 1 on Education



## Subcommittee No. 1

**Chair, Jack Scott**

**Member, Bob Margett**

**Member, Joe Simitian**

## **OUTCOMES**

**Tuesday, March 20, 2007**

**1:30 p.m.**

**Room 113, State Capitol**

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## **ISSUE 8: Child Health -- Physical Education Teacher Incentive Grants for K-8 Schools --6110-260-0001**

**DESCRIPTION: K-8 Physical Education Block Grant.** The Governor provides **\$41.6 million** in Physical Education Teacher Incentive Grants to K-8 school districts and charter schools to support the hiring of additional credentialed physical education teachers. Grantees are randomly selected and equitably distributed based upon school type, size and geographic location. This new ongoing program was established in the 2006-07 budget. The Department of Education recommends adding budget bill language to establish a grant period of three years.

### **BACKGROUND:**

**Governor's 2007-08 Budget Proposal:** The 2006-07 budget provided \$40 million for Physical Education Teacher Incentive Grants, as originally proposed by the Governor. Established as an ongoing program, the Governor proposes \$41.6 million in 2007-08 to continue funding for incentive grants to 1,000 elementary and middle schools to hire credentialed physical education teachers. Incentive grants would provide \$36,414 per school site, which would be selected randomly with considerations for school type, size, and location.

Physical education is typically provided by teachers with a Multiple Subjects Credential in elementary school. This incentive program is intended to increase the number of teachers with physical education credentials on elementary school and middle school campuses. High schools are not eligible for these teacher incentive grants.

In order to be eligible for grants, schools must be providing instructional minutes for physical education required by statute. If not, schools must develop a plan to meeting these statutory requirements and correct the deficiency the following school year.

**One Time Funds for Physical Education in 2006-07.** The 2006-07 budget also provided \$500 million Arts, Music and Physical Education Block Grants. These one-time block grants are available to school districts, county offices of education and charter schools for purchase of arts, music and physical education supplies and equipment. Funding is being allocated on the basis of student average daily attendance (ADA) with minimum school site grants of \$2,500.

**LAO Recommendation:** The LAO made a number of comments about the Governor's Physical Education Teacher Incentive Grants last year. Some of these comments still have relevance. Specifically, the LAO noted that the ongoing grant program contains no requirements for a local spending plan, expenditure or outcome data, or program evaluation. The LAO also noted that the Governor's physical education proposals are not well integrated with existing after-school programs, which emphasize physical activity and recreation. Lastly, the Governor's proposal presumed that there is a shortage of qualified physical education teachers. However, according to the LAO, there is no evidence of such a shortage.

## **COMMENTS:**

**Teacher Incentive Block Grant:** The length of Physical Education Teacher Incentive Grants to schools is not specified in the budget. The Department of Education recommends establishing a three year grant period. *Staff* supports this recommendation, with language that would limit new grants to schools that have not previously participated in the program. This would give the department authority to establish grant cycles and also allow grants to reach more than only 1,000 of the state's 6,700 elementary and middle schools.

**Arts, Music and Physical Education Block Grants:** While a one-time program, there is concern that budget trailer bill language establishing the Arts, Music and Physical Education Block Grant program in 2006-07 should be changed to specify funding for "physical education" rather than "physical fitness". The Department of Finance and the Department of Education support this clarifying change to AB 1131 (Ch. 371; 2006). *Staff supports* this clarifying change.

**OUTCOME:** Subcommittee adopted clarifying change to language enacted by Chapter 371, Statutes of 2006 to specify funding for the Arts, Music and Physical Education Block Grant be provided for "physical education" not "physical fitness." (Vote: 3-0)